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form. Platina and gold, in specific gravity, degree of oxydability, and other qualities, differ more from arsenic, iron, and tin than these last do from barium and strontium. The phenomona of combustion of all oxydable metals, are precisely analogous. In the burning in air, potassium forms an alkali, and calcium an earth; in a manner similar to that in which osmium forms a volatile and acrid substance by absorption of oxygen, does the amalgam of ammonium produce the volatile alkali? and, if we suppose the ammonia is metallized, by being combined with hydrogen, and freed from water, the same reasoning will apply to the other metals, with this difference, that the adherence of their phlogiston of hydrogen, would be exactly in the inverse ratio of their attraction for oxygen. In platina it would be combined with the greatest energy; in ammonium with the least; and if it be separable from any of the metals, without the aid of a new combination, we may expect that this result will be afforded by the most volatile and oxydable, such as arsenic, or other metals of the fixed alkalies, submitted to intense heat under electrical polarities, and having the pressure of the atmosphere removed.

Mr. Davy concludes by hoping, that the new facts which he has discovered, may admit of many applications, and explain some phenomena in nature. "The metals of the earths," he says, "cannot exist at the surface of the globe; but it is very possible that they may form a part of the interior; and such an assumption would offer a theory for the phenomena of volcanoes, the formation of lavas, and the effects and excitements of subterraneous heat; for let it be granted that the metals of the earths and alkalies, in alloy with common metals, exist in large quantities beneath the surface; then their accidental exposure to the action of the air and water must produce the effect of subterranean fire, and a product of earthy and stony matters analogous to lavas.

"The luminous appearance of those meteors, connected with the fall of stones is one of the extraordinary circumstances of these wonderful phenomena. This effect may be accounted for, by supposing that the substances which fall, come into our atmosphere in a metallic state, and that the earths of which they principally consist are the results of combustion."

At the meeting of the Royal Society, Feb. 2, a most curious and interesting paper, by Mr. Davy, was read, giving an account of various experiments on the action of potassium on ammonia, from which it appears, that a considerable quantity of nitrogen can be made to disappear, and can be regenerated. When it disappears, nothing can be obtained in its place but oxygen, and hydrogen; and when it is formed, its elementary matter is furnished by water.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the tale of "the Cottagers of Glenburnie," honourable and deserved notice is taken of David Manson, who so long and so successfully filled the respectable situation of instructor of youth in the town of Belfast. He may be considered the precursor of Lancaster, in facilitating the modes of instruction. I would be highly gratified if any of your readers would furnish, through your Miscellany, a sketch of his life, and particularly of the modes of instructing and managing youth, which he so advantageously practised.

As biography may be made so very useful in conveying lessons both to young and old, I wish to see many of your pages filled with interesting accounts of persons eminent in their respective lines. They who have been residents in your town or province, have peculiar claims on your notice; the memoirs of such might have a good effect in stimulating others to follow virtuous examples. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF THE EARTHS.

IN arts and sciences the progress of discovery has been extremely slow, some of these have arrived early at comparative perfection, while others remained for ages in a state of infancy, involved in the darkest obscurity, or confined to some very erroneous principles. It is curious to reflect, that though the science of chemistry was